

5. A device for hiding operations performed by a component of a smart card, the smart card comprising an EEPROM memory and a microprocessor, the device comprising:

means for modifying electrical current consumption of said component during the performance of said operations, wherein said means for modifying the current consumption of the component is configured to initiate a write or erase operation in a portion of the EEPROM memory simultaneous with an operation of the microprocessor in said smart card.

6. A device according to Claim 5, wherein the portion of said memory is dedicated to the recording of a random data item.

7. A device according to claim 7, wherein the activation of the means of modifying the current consumption is controlled by a microprocessor so as to be activated solely for the operations to be protected.

REMARKS

Claims 2, and 5-9 are currently pending, wherein claims 1, 3 and 4 have been canceled, claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 6 and 7 have been amended to correct dependencies. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above-identified amendments and the remarks presented herein below.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully note that an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") filed on September 20, 2000 was not provided with the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants request that a copy of the PTO 1449 indicating the Examiner's consideration of the cited references be provided with the next communication.

In the second paragraph of page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,211,919 to Ugon